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Maine Construction Wage Rates 1988

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR

BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS

Research and Statistics Division

Maine Construction Wage Rates 1988

The Maine Construction Wage Survey is conducted annually under the Prevailing Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. The major purpose of the survey is to provide hourly wage data for use in setting minimum rates of pay on State-funded construction projects. The 1988 survey had an initial mailing to 2,692 construction firms, an increase of 23 percent from last year. In large part, this is due to the addition of construction firms filing with the Workers' Compensation Commission but not yet on Unemployment Insurance files. Most of these additional firms were later determined to be too small to be included in the statistics. Data from 929 respondents was used to produce the 1989 determinations and, subsequently, this publication. There were 1,334 unused reports, mostly from employers having fewer than five employees, as well as from companies not operating in Maine during the survey period or were out of business. The data shown is based on 16,466 workers (21.8 percent more than in 1987), or 52.4 percent of the estimated 35,398 employees in the Construction Industry Division in September 1988.

The industry-wide average hourly wage for 1988 was \$9.35, which is 7.3 percent higher than the 1987 average of \$8.71. Part of this increase in wages is attributable to a large project begun between the 1987 and 1988 survey periods. Likewise, there were increases in the wage rates in each major industry group within construction. The largest change occurred in Highway and Heavy Construction with an 11.3 percent rise, followed by Special Trades Contractors (up 8.9 percent), while Building Construction recorded a 2.7 percent increase.

**AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES
BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1984-1988**

	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE				
	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u>
Construction Industry	\$9.35	\$8.71	\$8.70	\$8.01	\$7.43
Building Construction	9.05	8.81	8.44	7.36	7.13
Highway & Heavy Construction	8.65	7.77	7.39	7.08	6.73
Special Trades Construction	9.90	9.09	9.49	8.92	8.11

HOURLY WAGE RATES FOR SELECTED CONSTRUCTION TRADES, MAINE, 1988

	<u>Number of Workers</u>	<u>Hourly Wage Rates</u>			
		<u>Low</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Average</u>
<u>Building Construction (SIC 15)</u>					
Backhoe Operator	95	\$ 7.00	\$ 9.25	\$20.41	\$ 9.97
Bulldozer Operator	56	7.00	9.67	15.00	9.83
Carpenter	2,751	4.00	9.00	18.75	9.17
Cement Finisher	57	5.00	8.00	16.25	8.38
Crane Operator (Less Than 15 Tons)	11	7.00	9.45	20.41	10.47
Electrician	158	6.00	15.00	17.09	14.78
Insulation Worker	15	4.75	7.00	20.56	8.42
Ironworker, Structural	58	6.00	10.50	19.00	10.71
Laborer, Helper	1,399	3.65	6.75	15.00	7.13
Loader Operator, Front-End	48	6.00	9.00	12.50	8.98
Mason (Including Bricklayers)	77	6.50	12.00	16.07	11.89
Mechanic, Other	81	5.00	9.50	20.41	9.72
Millwright	72	7.50	13.50	15.09	12.81
Painter, Brush	85	4.75	8.00	13.85	8.33
Roofer	25	5.00	8.00	12.00	8.64
Sheet Metal Worker	65	4.50	8.80	16.23	10.02
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	53	5.50	8.00	15.00	8.23
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	11	5.50	8.00	11.64	8.48
<u>Highway & Heavy Construction (SIC 16)</u>					
Backhoe Operator	161	5.80	9.00	14.48	9.34
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	77	5.50	7.75	11.50	7.78
Blaster	28	6.50	14.38	17.50	13.21
Bulldozer Operator	92	4.00	8.49	15.63	8.85
Carpenter	285	6.00	9.00	15.59	9.31
Cement Finisher	20	6.00	8.50	11.00	8.59
Compressor Operator	25	5.00	9.00	20.92	9.38
Crane Operator (15 Tons or More)	61	7.00	12.00	15.00	11.95
Crusher Plant Operator	33	5.00	8.75	20.00	9.20
Grader/Scraper Operator	33	6.75	9.00	15.36	9.54
Laborer, Helper	957	3.90	6.75	16.45	7.13
Loader Operator, Front-End	166	4.50	8.75	20.97	8.99
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	10	7.00	9.54	12.00	9.32
Mechanic, Other	156	4.00	9.00	20.84	8.98
Paver, Bituminous	63	6.50	9.00	22.00	9.40
Pipelayer	41	5.25	8.00	15.36	8.01
Roller Operator	91	5.00	8.00	12.25	8.38
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	164	5.00	7.00	10.00	6.98
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	389	4.75	7.00	17.18	7.14
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	74	5.00	8.00	12.25	7.93

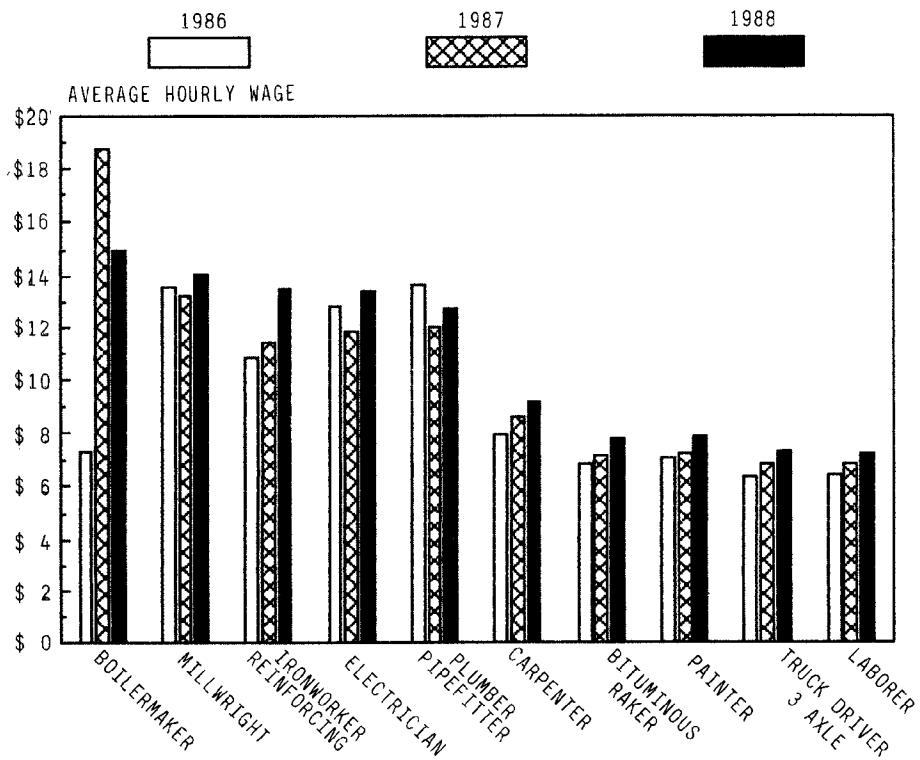
	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rates			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)					
Asbestos Abatement Worker	143	\$ 6.50	\$ 8.50	\$17.50	\$ 8.92
Backhoe Operator	214	5.00	9.00	21.43	9.20
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	20	6.00	8.00	9.00	7.81
Boilermaker	137	8.55	14.50	20.93	15.67
Bulldozer Operator	148	5.00	8.25	15.00	8.56
Carpenter	356	4.50	8.62	20.00	9.15
Cement Finisher	105	4.50	8.50	15.00	8.70
Compressor Operator	4	5.00	6.75	7.50	6.50
Crane Operator (Less Than 15 Tons)	12	8.00	9.00	18.75	10.44
Crane Operator (15 Tons or More)	25	9.00	14.00	21.97	13.24
Crusher Plant Operator	15	5.00	8.25	11.00	8.28
Dry-Wall Applicator	181	5.00	12.75	15.00	11.91
Dry-Wall Taper & Finisher	165	5.00	12.00	15.00	11.41
Electrician	793	4.75	13.00	22.25	13.16
Grader/Scraper Operator	16	6.50	8.00	14.87	8.44
Insulation Worker	286	5.00	8.00	19.94	8.57
Ironworker, Reinforcing	63	8.75	12.00	15.75	13.09
Ironworker, Structural	115	4.75	15.50	17.02	14.16
Laborer, Helper	1,542	4.00	7.00	18.00	7.37
Loader Operator, Front End	122	6.00	8.37	20.97	8.85
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	221	6.00	13.30	17.07	12.15
Mechanic, Refrigeration	38	8.50	10.75	15.00	11.11
Mechanic, Other	100	6.00	8.55	16.25	8.91
Millwright	238	7.00	15.09	15.09	14.82
Oilburner Repairer	78	5.50	9.50	14.00	9.60
Painter, Brush	415	4.00	7.35	16.10	7.75
Painter, Spray	47	4.10	8.00	16.00	8.40
Paperhanger	37	8.00	9.25	20.00	10.11
Pipelayer	37	6.75	8.25	12.50	8.64
Plasterer	8	8.00	11.63	15.00	11.56
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	662	5.00	12.00	20.00	12.48
Roller Operator	17	4.50	6.50	10.00	7.28
Roofer	236	4.50	8.00	18.00	8.44
Sheet Metal Worker	282	5.00	9.50	16.00	9.76
Sprinkler Fitter	29	6.25	11.75	15.85	11.20
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	135	5.00	7.00	11.00	7.32
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	301	5.25	7.15	12.50	7.31
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	53	6.00	8.00	13.00	8.02

Trades in More Than One SIC

Asbestos Abatement Worker	147	\$ 6.50	\$ 8.50	\$17.50	\$8.88
Backhoe Operator	470	5.00	9.00	21.43	9.40
Bituminous Raker/Spreader	99	5.50	7.80	11.50	7.79
Blaster	38	6.50	12.44	17.50	12.29
Boilermaker	214	8.55	14.00	20.93	14.97
Bulldozer Operator	296	4.00	8.50	15.63	8.89
Carpenter	3,392	4.00	9.00	20.00	9.18
Cement Finisher	182	4.50	8.50	16.25	8.59
Compressor Operator	30	5.00	9.00	20.92	9.36
Crane Operator (Less Than 15 Tons)	37	7.00	9.50	20.41	10.49
Crane Operator (15 Tons or More)	103	7.00	12.50	21.97	12.94
Crusher Plant Operator	48	5.00	8.37	20.00	8.92
Dry-wall Applicator	184	5.00	12.75	15.00	11.82

The graph below illustrates the average wages for ten construction trades. The first five occupations are strongly influenced by union wage rates, while the last five are much less likely to be covered by collective bargaining contracts. The up and down movement of wages for the occupations influenced by union rates is due to the absence or presence of large construction projects, primarily at paper mills. On the other hand, the other trades tend to show a steady annual pay increase.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,
BY SELECTED TRADES, 1986-1988



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
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	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rates			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<u>Trades in More Than One SIC (continued)</u>					
Dry-wall Taper and Finisher	174	\$ 5.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$11.23
Electrician	975	4.75	13.50	22.25	13.42
Grader/Scraper Operator	52	6.50	8.80	15.36	9.35
Insulation Worker	301	4.75	8.00	20.56	8.56
Ironworker, Reinforcing	124	7.50	15.75	16.00	13.52
Ironworker, Structural	293	4.75	12.00	19.00	12.49
Laborer, Helper	3,898	3.65	7.00	18.00	7.22
Loader Operator, Front End	336	4.50	8.50	20.97	8.94
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	308	6.00	13.00	17.07	11.99
Mechanic, Refrigeration	42	7.40	10.40	15.00	10.92
Mechanic, Other	337	4.00	9.00	20.84	9.14
Millwright	378	7.00	15.09	15.09	14.03
Oilburner Repairer	78	5.50	9.50	14.00	9.60
Painter, Brush	500	4.00	7.50	16.10	7.85
Painter, Spray	73	4.10	8.00	16.00	8.46
Paperhanger	38	8.00	9.25	20.00	10.11
Paver, Bituminous	87	5.00	9.00	22.00	8.92
Pipelayer	80	5.25	8.00	15.36	8.26
Plasterer	8	8.00	11.62	15.00	11.56
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	892	5.00	12.70	20.00	12.78
Roller Operator	120	4.50	8.00	12.25	8.17
Roofer	261	4.50	8.00	18.00	8.46
Sheet Metal Worker	353	4.50	9.50	16.23	9.80
Sprinkler Fitter	31	6.25	11.25	15.85	10.94
Tool Operator, Power Actuated	11	5.46	8.00	12.17	8.81
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	352	5.00	7.00	15.00	7.30
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	803	4.75	7.25	17.18	7.26
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	138	5.00	8.00	13.00	8.01

NOTES

Average Wage: The weighted average is computed by multiplying each rate by the number of workers receiving that rate then dividing by the total number of workers in the trade.

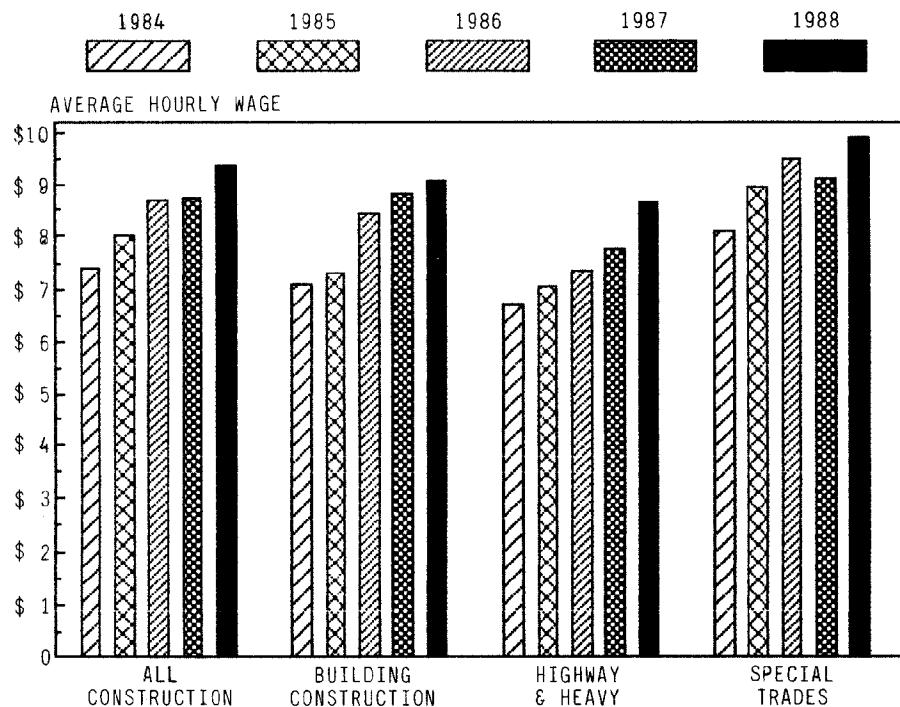
Median Wage: Literally, the middle rate, that is, no more than half the workers in a trade earn less and no more than half the workers earn in excess of this figure.

Source of September 1988 employment data: Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Rates shown in this publication should not be confused with rates issued with any determination under the Minimum Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. There are two major differences between this data and the determined rates. The industry groups differ significantly. For this publication, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system Major Industry Groups are used. Prevailing wage determinations, on the other hand, cross SIC groups. Also, no rate is set for a trade having less than 10 workers statewide, but data is shown here for trades with fewer than 10 workers if it was judged to be usable and its publication does not violate confidentiality restrictions.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,
BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1984-1988



The graph above illustrates the data from the table on page one. It demonstrates the fact that the wages in Building Construction and Highway and Heavy Construction have experienced annual increases. Meanwhile, workers in Special Trades Contracting had a slight relapse in 1987, enough of a dip to cause the overall average to remain steady between 1986 and 1987.

As shown by the chart below, the all-industry average wage rose faster than the Consumer Price Index for all workers during the period 1984 to 1986. The 1988 average wage only equals the 1986 average in adjusted value following a slight decrease in value in 1987.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,
ACTUAL AND ADJUSTED (1984 Base), ALL
CONSTRUCTION, 1984-1988

